

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2313

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CZ
SUBJECT: SOVIET CONCERN OVER CZECHOSLOVAK OCCUPATION

1. AT AUGUST 24 URUGUAYAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, I NOTICED
FRG AMBASSADOR DIESEL SPEAKING ANIMATEDLY AND AT LENGTH WITH
SOVIET EMBASSY COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR NOVIKOV. I COULD HEAR
DIESEL SPEAKING QUITE FRANKLY ABOUT CONTINUED DEPLOYMENT OF
SOVIET ARMED FORCES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2. FRG DCM GIESDER SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD US DIESEL HAD CITED
RECENT ARGUMENTS (E.G. IN CHARTER 77 DOCUMENT MARKING 10TH
ANNIVERSARY OF 1968 INVASION) RECALLING MOSCOW'S 1968 POSITION
THAT SOVIET TROOPS WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHEN
IT WAS CLEAR THAT PRAGUE FACED NO MENACE FROM WEST
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GERMANY. DIESEL REPORTEDLY POINTED TO THE MANY
RESULTS OF FRG OSTPOLITIC, INCLUDING BONN SUMMIT MEETINGS
THIS YEAR WITH BOTH BREZHNEV AND HUSAK, AND EMPHASIZED
IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT FRG POSES NO THREAT TO CZECHO-
SLOVAKIA.

3. GIESDER SAID NOVIKOV'S RESPONSE WAS QUITE INTERESTING

IN TAKING AN ALMOST APOLOGETIC LINE THAT MOSCOW MAY NOT RPT. NOT HAVE DECIDED UPON THE INVASION IN 1968 IF IT COULD HAVE ANTICIPATED THE SCOPE OF PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM THIS ACTION -- I.E. SOVIET DIFFICULTIES WITH EUROCOMMUNISTS AND OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES NOT TO MENTION WITH ANTI-COMMUNIST POLITICAL FORCES. NOVIKOV REPORTEDLY HINTED THAT MOSCOW IS PRESENTLY LOOKING AT POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS OF SOVIET TROOPS STATIONED IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. GIESDER BELIEVES SOVIETS WANT TO USE PULLBACK OF TROOPS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AS BARGAINING CHIP IN MBFR TALKS AT VIENNA.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE LITTLE IDEA WHAT THE SOVIETS MAY BE PREPARING AT PRESENT IN MBFR, WE HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT MOSCOW MIGHT WELL CONSIDER PULLING BACK AT LEAST SOME SOVIET TROOPS FROM "NORMALIZED" CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN ORDER TO HELP INDUCE REDUCTION OF US TROOP LEVEL IN WESTERN EUROPE.
BYRNE

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